



The Leon County LINK

Connecting Citizens
with Leon County
Services

The Link is published the first Wednesday of each month in the local section of the Tallahassee Democrat.

County Kicks Off Leon Energy Assistance Program

One of the most efficient and economical means of energy conservation and lowering utility bills is weatherization. Properly protecting a home and its interior from the elements can reduce energy consumption and optimize energy efficiency year round.



Leon County hosted a kickoff event for its new weatherization initiative, the Leon Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), to introduce a program that will enable property owners to finance energy efficiency improvements.

The LEAP initiative, inspired by a growing national trend, will be the first of its kind in Florida and will occur in two phases: a pilot program, which will provide 100 free home energy audits, followed by the potential for a fully implemented program.

The 100 pilot participants were selected on a first-come, first-served basis, and it will take roughly three months to complete all 100 audits. The energy audits will be conducted by qualified inspectors and will result in a list of deficiencies, as well as opportunities to reduce energy consumption.

For more information, contact the Office of Sustainability at (850) 606-5300 or at Sustainability@leoncountyfl.gov.

Leon County Library System Receives Big Read Grant

The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System announced that it received a \$12,500 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to host The Big Read in Leon County once again. The Library System is one of 75 not-for-profit organizations, including libraries, universities and cultural organizations, to receive a grant to host a Big Read project this year.

The Big Read gives communities the opportunity to come together to read, discuss and celebrate one specific literature selection. In 2009, Leon County hosted The Big Read featuring "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury. This year's book selection is "The Things They Carried," by author Tim O'Brien, and activities will take place during October and November. The Big Read grants enable organizations to promote and carry out community-based reading programs, featuring activities such as book discussions, lectures, movie screenings and performing arts events. Participating communities also receive high-quality, free of charge educational materials to supplement each title, including reader's, teacher's and audio guides.

For more information, please contact the Leon County Public Information Office, at (850) 606-5300 or pio@leoncountyfl.gov.



Leon County Unveils Renovated Courthouse Annex Building



Leon County and the Second Judicial Circuit held a Grand Re-Opening Ceremony for the newly renovated Courthouse Annex on Monday, Aug. 2, at the Annex, which is located at 1920 Thomasville Road.

The facility, which underwent a \$3.1 million renovation, is home to traffic court proceedings, small claims court, Teen Court, mediation and certain County civil cases, and it will serve an estimated 36,000 visitors each year.

There is a new heating ventilating and air conditioning system, and each room and office has its own motion-sensing lights and air conditioning unit so that when no one is occupying that particular space, the lights go off and the unit is not blasting unnecessary cold air.

The County also installed new insulation on the walls, replaced all exterior windows and doors with modern insulated units and installed a new, more reflective roof with a ventilated attic underneath.

The new layout also provides a more efficient arrangement for residents of Leon County and court administration staff, and citizens will benefit from having a more accessible location for court proceedings. Guardian Ad Litem and Project SEARCH will now also be housed at the facility.

For details, contact the Leon County Public Information Office, at (850) 606-5300 / pio@leoncountyfl.gov.



Park Readies for Football Season

On Saturday, July 31, Leon County unveiled the new Apalachee Regional Park Concession Center for the more than 1,700 children and their families who utilize the intramural fields annually. The 1,365-square-foot Concession Center features restrooms, a concession stand and storage facilities for park maintenance equipment.

For more information, contact the Leon County Public Information Office, at (850) 606-5300 / pio@leoncountyfl.gov or visit www.leoncountyparks.org.

Sharing T.R.E.E. Grand Opening

On Thursday, Aug. 5, the Sharing T.R.E.E., a reusable resource center with free school supplies for teachers, is having a kick-off news conference at 10 a.m. and a Preview Party for the community from 4 to 7 p.m. at Lively Technical Center, Building 6, located at 500 Appleyard Drive.

The Sharing T.R.E.E., a public/non-profit partnership founded by Leon County Schools, Leon County Government, Goodwill Industries and Sustainable Tallahassee, assists educators while maintaining a healthier and more sustainable environment.

For more information, contact Carly Sinnadurai with the Sharing T.R.E.E. at (850) 487-7568 / TheSharingTREE@leonschools.net.

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON A COUNTY CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

Citizen participation, by way of community input, advice, and/or recommendations regarding matters to be brought before the Board of County Commissioners for approval, is important in developing Leon County's programs and policies and in providing quality public services to the community.

Citizens can go to the County's website (www.leoncountyfl.gov/committees) to complete the Board-Appointed Citizen Committee's Orientation and Training to fill out an application.

A listing of the types of committees, such as housing, human services and transportation – along with information on committee vacancies, responsibilities and member eligibility – can also be found at the website.

Presently, the County is looking for members for the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, the Big Bend Health Council, the Human Services Grant Review Committee, the Enterprise Development Zone Agency and the Water Resources Committee.

The application may be sent to CobleC@leoncountyfl.gov, faxed to (850) 606-5301 or mailed to Christine Coble, 301 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

The Link is produced by the Leon County Public Information Office
301 S. Monroe Street, Suite 502 - (850) 606-5300.

August 2010 Board of County Commissioners Schedule

17 **Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting**
3 p.m. County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers

Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing
6 p.m. County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers